1994 the entire range of bilateral issues including differences related to the Jammu and Kashmir issue, were discussed. The two sides acknowledged that basic divergences exist and reiterated the need to engage in a meaningful dialogue to address outstanding problems. Government, in pursuance of the discussions at the Foreign Secretary level talks, handed over to Pakistan on 24th January, 1994, six concrete proposals aimed at resolving bilateral differences and normalizing relations. Pakistan's formal response to our proposals was received on 19 February, 1994 and is under consideration with the Government.

However, during the period since the Foreign Secretary level talks concluded. Pakistan has indulged in a highly provocative propaganda campaign against India and has stepped up its efforts to internationalise the J&K issue. This has vitiated the climate of relations and has a negative impact on the bilateral process.

Indian offer of Help for Peace in Afghanistan

229. SHRI G.Y. KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has offered help for peace in war-torn Afghanistan, backing UN efforts to arrange a cease-fire between the warring factions and for a negotiated settlement of the differences, basically over power sharing between the present President Rabbani on one hand and Hekmatyar Dostum alliance on the other; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Afghanistan Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DINESH SINGH): (a) and (b) We have always stood for a political settlement in Afghanistan based on the aspirations of the Afghan people and arrived at by the Afghans themselves. Accordingly, India has called upon the international community especially the countries of the region to urgently address the political and security situation in Afghanistan and to undertake a renewed search for peace and stability in that country. We have expressed our willingness to contribute to any such initiative.

According to reports, no peace initiative has made progress in the direction of an enduring settlement. Fighting among the various groups which erupted on January 1, 1994 in continuing.

Agreement between Indian and Chinese Experts over line of Actual Control

230. SHRI G.Y. KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the genesis of the basic agreement reached between Indian and Chinese experts on various issues related to delineation of the Line of Actual Control (LAC) between the two countries at the first meeting of the expert group held in New Delhi early this month; and

(b) the follow-up action being taken in pursuance thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DINESH SINGH): (a) During the visit of former Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi to China in 1988, both countries established the India-China Joint Working Group (JWG) which was tasked to seek to create a favourable climate and conditions for a fair and reasonable settlement of the boundary question, while seeking a mutually acceptable solution to this question. Discussions in the JWG resulted in the Agreement on Maintenance of Peace and Tranquillity along the Line of Actual Control in the India-China Border Areas, which was signed during Prime Minister Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao's visit to China in September 1993.

(b) In pursuance of the Agreement, the India-China Expert Group was formed in December 1993, to assist the